Ocean Development Programmes

1026. SHRI ANNA JOSHI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be please to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to evolve some special Ocean Development Programmes with special reference to Nodules;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is proposed to cover higher research and development in deep sea fishing technology; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONAL PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) Yes, Sir. India has a continuing programme to develop the mine site in the Central Indian Ocean (about 1600 km south of Cape Comorin) allocated to it by the international Seabed Authority, with exclusive mining rights.

(b) The commercial value of the deep seabed nodules lies in their low concentration but strategically important contents of copper,Nickel and Cobalt, in addition to manganese. The nodule utilization programme therefore consists of 3 separate but interlinked technological component(a) detailed exploration of the mine site lying at a depth of 5 km below the surface, (b) development of a deep seabed mining system to bring these nodules to the surface and (c) development of cost effective metallurgical processes and plants to extract mentals from the nodules.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Assistance for Development of Pune

1027. SHRI ANNA JOSHI: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to allocate Special Development Assistance for Pune City; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) No Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

Food Processing Units of Multinational foreign Companies

1028. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the multinational foreign companies who have set up food processing units in the country;

(b) whether some foreign investment proposals have been cleared by the Government recently;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) how far these foreign companies have been able to generate employment in India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) There is no accepted definition of multinational company. However, for practical purposes, a company having more than 40% of non- resident interest (popularly known as FERA company) was being treated as a